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institutions and regulations relating to plant protection in different countries will interest American readers.

The admirable method is followed of discussing the enemies under their respective food-plants, and over sixty pages are devoted to fruit-tree enemies. The San José scale receives more space than any other enemy except the grape phylloxera, and curiously enough the *Aspidiotus ostræformis* scale is called the "yellow European pseudo-San José scale." Injurious mammals and birds are briefly discussed, and then fifty pages are devoted to "Gartenfreunde," mostly the parasitic and prædaceous insects.

I know of no similar work in any language covering so much ground so briefly and yet so well adapted for its field.

M. V. S.

The Circulation in the Nervous System. — In a pamphlet of some hundred and fifty pages bearing the above title, Dr. Gasser¹ develops what to his mind "is the only true conception that is in entire harmony with the established order of facts in the world of thought" concerning the action of the nervous system. Precisely what this conception is the author nowhere makes very clear, but so far as can be gathered his experience as a physician has profoundly impressed him with the belief that the nervous system works in a circular fashion. What circulates, whether matter or energy, and through what particular channels the circulation is accomplished, is left mostly to the imagination of the reader, though we are told that the evidence for this movement is as substantial as that for the circulation of the blood. As a figure of speech the circulation in the nervous system may be innocent enough; as a description of what actually takes place it is utterly without foundation. P.

The Oarfish, *Regalecus*, on the Coast of Southern California. — On the 25th of February a huge "sea serpent," with bright colors and the conventional mane, was reported in the newspapers as having come ashore near Santa Ana in southern California. No part of the animal was preserved, so far as known, but a good photograph was taken by Mr. G. T. Peabody of Santa Ana. It evidently represents an oarfish or herring king, some species of *Regalecus*. The fish was fifteen feet long and something over a foot in depth, weighing about five hundred pounds. The dorsal is considerably injured,

¹ Gasser, H. *The Circulation in the Nervous System*. Plattville, Wis., Journal Publishing Company, 1901. 156 pp.

but as nearly as can be counted the number of rays is about four hundred. The long spines on the head do not show in the picture. The species of *Regalecus* have never been defined, and the present one can hardly be certainly identified. It may be the New Zealand-Japanese-Indian species, *Regalecus russelli* or *argenteus*. D. S. J.

Notes on Recent Fish Literature. — In the *Annotationes Zoologicae Japonenses* (Vol. IV, Pt. I), Dr. S. Hatta has a review of the Japanese lampreys, with notes on their local distribution and their anatomical structure. The new species, *Lampetra mitsukurii* Hatta, already characterized by Dr. Jordan, is here described. In another note Dr. Hatta discusses the metameric segmentation of the mesoblast in the lamprey and the lancelet. In the earlier stages the segmentation in the lamprey agrees with that of the lancelet; in its later stages with that of the higher craniota.

In the *Atti de la Società di Naturalisti*, etc., of Modena, Dr. Luigi Facciola continues his valuable series of studies of the development of the larvæ of different forms of eels. These larvæ, known as *Lep-tocephali*, are ribbon-shaped, translucent, and soft, with very small heads. In their further development they undergo a shrinkage in size, attaining greater compactness of substance.

In the *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* (Vol. XXIV, pp. 33-132), Jordan and Snyder continue their series of monographic reviews of the fishes of Japan. Of the gobies, 57 species are described, representing 33 genera. Of these species, 21 are new and are here represented in the excellent drawings of Mrs. Chloe Lesley Starks.

We may here note that the generic name *Chasmias*, proposed by Jordan and Snyder for a genus of gobies in 1900 (page 761), is antedated by *Chasmias* Ashmead, a genus of Ichneumon flies published on page 17 in the same volume of the *Proceedings*. The genus of fishes, type *Chasmias misakius*, may receive the new name of *Chasmichthys* Jordan and Snyder. I am indebted to Mr. W. H. Ashmead for calling attention to the prior establishment of his genus. Of sea horses, pipefishes, and their relatives, nineteen species are described from Japan. Of these, seven are described and figured as new. The sea horses exist in especially large number and variety along the headlands washed by the warm "Black Current," or "Kuro Shiwo."